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                         LR 218

introduced the amendment, I guess. I've been reading it and rereading it, and I just had a chance to talk to Fiscal, to Liz, and the way I was reading it, the...was that that \$1.5 million, additional money that would be lost through federal funds, would make the prescription costs go up. That was the way I was reading it and that's not quite accurate. The \$1.5 million actually includes the \$600,000 that we were talking about on the...the \$1 copay, plus 900,000 other dollars. And it...it really wouldn't affect the cost of prescriptions. The way I understand it, as Liz just explained it to me, that the average person has about 29 prescription fills per year. And there are over 200,000 Medicaid recipients, but the ones that you count for this would be the...the nine...the money is the \$900,000 extra, and you divide it by the number of recipients. And what this boils down to, if you can take an average, is \$29 per person per year. So that like about \$2.50 a month additional for each recipient. Now, that's an average. There are going to be some people that are going to be paying a lot more than that, and there are going to be some people who aren't going to be paying that much. I'm not sure if the \$2.50 figure is a large enough one to worry about. I mean, these people are on fixed incomes, and they have very little discretionary spending, some of them. So I guess I'm just tossing it on the table at this point, to try to...to find out answers to questions, and to see if you have any questions, and to see if...if we think this really is a good idea to, in essence, find some money for the people who are probably least able to pay it, the people who are the most vulnerable in our society, perhaps. I would be...I would welcome your comments, and I would welcome the comments of the Appropriations Committee as well. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I would return the rest of my time to the Chair.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members, I will speak to this amendment, but I want to add one additional comment to what I made just before dinnertime. Twenty-one...page 21, there is \$100,000 that we added in here for a program statement for the Thomas Fitzgerald Veterans' Home. That is one of our proposals. If you recall, we had a legislative resolution, LR 218, last fall that we looked at the veterans' home. I was on it and